

64/03

BANKS CASE  
REVIEW

The Dean reported that he had drafted a pew note, as agreed at the last Chapter meeting, to inform the Community of the Banks Case Review and invite anyone who wished to contribute to contact Mrs Carmi. The note had been amended in the light of comments made by the Chapter Clerk and both Mrs Carmi and the Bishop had approved its content. He was reluctant for the note to appear in Holy Week and would wait until after Easter before publishing it. The Dean advised Chapter that Mr Bowring, a former Prebendal School master, had pleaded guilty to charges of sexually assaulting boys at the school in the 1970s at a hearing in Chichester last week. He had been remanded for psychiatric tests and would be sentenced on 2 May but, since details of the case against him

would not now be presented in court, the media interest would probably not be so intense. He went on to report, in outline, a recent meeting between some Governors of the Prebendal School and Mrs Carmi. Considerable disagreement had arisen between Mrs Carmi and the Governors on the appropriate way to conduct the case review, which seemed to be increasingly acquiring the appearance of an investigation rather than a review. The Governors had become alarmed at the risk posed to the school's reputation by the review and had decided to seek the advice of a Bristol-based firm of solicitors to advise them how to proceed. The Dean voiced his concern that the solicitors, in seeking to protect the school authorities for whom they would be acting, might seek to deflect blame onto the Cathedral. After some discussion it was agreed that the Dean should discuss matters further with the Bishop and with the Diocesan Child Protection Officer, Mr Tony Sellwood.